



DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SURVEYOR & SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
1947  
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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Rural District for the year 1947.

The report is divided into the following sections :-

- A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.
- B. General Provision of Health Services for the area.
- C. Sanitary Circumstances of the area.
- D. Housing.
- E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- F. Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Disease.

SECTION "A"STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	51,453.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	3915.
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£82,409.
Sum represented by one penny rate	...	...	...	...	£333.5s.8d.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1947)	...	...	...	...	12,330.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	245	131	114
Illegitimate	18	13	5
Total	263	144	119

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population 21.3

Birth rate for England and Wales for the  
same period 20.5

<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	8	4	4
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	8	4	4





<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	142	71	71
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			11.5
Death rate for England and Wales			12.0

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	8	7	1
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Total	9	8	1
Infantile Mortality Rate for the Year			35
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for the same period			41

Deaths from Special Causes

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>
Deaths from Cancer	21	21
Deaths from Measles	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	Nil

Causes of Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil
Influenza	1	1
Cancer	9	12
Diabetes	-	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	6	12
Heart Disease	15	16
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	3
Bronchitis	3	3
Pneumonia	2	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1
Gastric or duodenal ulcer	2	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil	Nil
Appendicitis	1	-
Other digestive diseases	Nil	Nil





<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Nephritis	1.	21
Diseases associated with childbirth	-	-
Prematurity, congenital malformations and birth injuries	5.	1.
Road Traffic Accidents	5.	1.
Suicide	1.	1.
Other violent causes	3.	1.
All other causes	12.	9.

### SECTION "B"

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

##### a) Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health	-	Margaret C. Fell, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.
Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector	-	R. F. Fry, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	-	D. G. Carter, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

##### b) Laboratory Services

These are provided at the County Council's Laboratory in Worcester.

##### c) Ambulance Service

The district is served by the Droitwich and District Ambulance Association for cases of accident or general illness.

Infectious cases are removed to hospital in an ambulance provided by the Isolation Hospital authorities.

##### d) Nursing in the home

Nursing services are provided by the local District Nursing Associations.

Seven District Nurse-Midwives are working in the rural district. These nurses also undertake the duties of Health Visitors under the County Council.







e) Hospitals

Cases of infectious disease needing hospital treatment are removed to Hill Top Isolation Hospital, Bromsgrove.

Cases of Tuberculosis are admitted to Knightwick Sanatorium and Hill Top Isolation Hospital.

Treatment for cases of Venereal disease is provided by the County Council

f) Clinics

The district is served by the County Council's Infant Welfare Clinics at Droitwich, Worcester, Ombersley, Stourport, Outnall Green and Crowle and Antenatal Clinics at Worcester, Droitwich and Stourport.

A new Infant Welfare Centre at Hartlebury was opened early in 1948.

SECTION "C"SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The report of Mr. Fry, your Chief Sanitary Inspector, fully records the work of his department and gives details about such matters as Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage, Public Cleansing and Salvage.

It is hoped that it will be possible to carry out the proposed piped water and sewerage schemes in the district as soon as possible and that the Council will continue to press for these necessary facilities.





SECTION "D"HOUSING

It is pleasing to report that good progress has been made with the erection of new houses in the district since the end of the war.

There are in the district a large number of houses which are unfit for human habitation and which should be dealt with under the provisions of the Housing Act 1936 as soon as alternative accommodation can be found for the occupants.

The survey of housing conditions in the district as recommended by the Hobhouse Report has now been completed, and a detailed report on this survey is being prepared.

The following is a summary of the housing work carried out during the year :-

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.
  - a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... .. 771.  
and number of inspections made for the purpose ... .. 875.
  - b) Number of new houses erected during the year.
    - a) By Local Authority ... .. 66.
    - b) By other persons ... .. 16.
  - c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. 61.
  - d) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. 332.





## 2. Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in  
consequence of informal action by the Local

Authority or their officers ... 45.

## 3. Action under Statutory Powers.

a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the  
Housing Act, 1936.

1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which  
Notices were served requiring repairs (or defects  
remedied) ... Nil.

2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered  
fit after service of formal notices :-

a) By owners ... Nil.

b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.

b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of  
which notices were served requiring defects  
to be remedied ... 5.

2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects  
were remedied after service of formal  
notice :-

a) by the owner ... 5.

b) by Local Authority in default of owner ... Nil.

c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing  
Act 1936.

1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which  
Demolition Orders were made ... Nil.

2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in  
pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil.





SECTION "E"INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This work was carried out as usual by the Sanitary Inspectors and full details are given in Mr. Fry's report.

SECTION "F"PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of notifiable disease which occurred in the district during the year is shown in the tables below.

The large number of cases of Measles which occurred during the year formed part of a generalised epidemic which affected the whole of England and Wales.

The notified case of Paratyphoid Fever occurred in a military hospital in the area.

It is pleasing to report that no case of diphtheria occurred in the district during the year and that no cases of poliomyelitis occurred in the district during the epidemic which affected the country as a whole in 1947.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The number of children immunised during the year either at Clinics, Schools or by General Practitioners was as follows :-

Pre-school children	...	...	...	145.
School children	...	...	...	2.
Re-inforcing doses	...	...	...	54.





Notifiable Disease

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year are shown in the following table :-

	Total cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospitals	Deaths
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	1	Nil	Nil
German Measles	1	1	Nil
Measles	101	Nil	Nil
Meningitis	1	Nil	Nil
Paratyphoid B.	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia Lobar	2	Nil	Nil
Primary Pneumonia	1	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	13	12	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	Nil
Whooping Cough	29	Nil	Nil
Totals	152	15	Nil

Parish	German Measles	Primary Pneumon- -ia.	Meningitis	Puerperal Pyrexia	Paraty- phoid
Hartlebury	Nil	1	1	1	Nil
St. Martin Co.	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Totals	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.

Parish.	Pneumonia Lobar
North Claines	1.
Upton Warren	1.
Totals	2.





Parish	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Crowle	2	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dodderhill	2	10	5	Nil	Nil
Elmbridge	Nil	14	6	Nil	Nil
Elmley Lovett	Nil	6	5	1	Nil
Hadzor	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil
Hampton Lovett	Nil	2	1	Nil	Nil
Hanbury	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Hartlebury	Nil	12	2	Nil	Nil
Himbleton	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Hindlip	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Martin-					
Hussingtree	Nil	2	1	Nil	Nil
North Claines	7	33	3	Nil	1
Salwarpe	1	8	1	Nil	Nil
Upton Warren	Nil	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ombersley	Nil	Nil	4	Nil	Nil
Totals	13	101	29	1	1

### TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths notified during 1947 (excluding transferred deaths).

NEW CASES				DEATHS			
Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
3.	7.	1.	Nil.	1.	1.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases remaining on Register at End of December 1946				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
				21.	25.	6.	3.
				23.	27.	7.	3.
Cases remaining on Register at End of December 1947							

I am, Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MARGARET C. FELL.

Medical Officer of Health.





REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR & SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1947.

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Droitwich Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration and  
information my fourth annual report.

1. The Department is responsible for the supervision of the Council's building programme the administration of the byelaws in respect to new buildings, interim development planning, the maintenance of the Council's property, the supervision of public water supplies, sewers and sewage disposal plants and the collection and disposal of household refuse and general sanitary inspection duties.

2. The staff employed during the year was as follows :-

One Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

One Additional Sanitary Inspector.

One Clerk of Works.

Two Housing Inspectors (Temporary).

One Water Inspector.

One Trainee.

One Clerk.

Eight Manual Workers.

3. Inspection of the District

The following table gives details of inspections made  
during the year :-

Housing (Public Health & Housing Actsm Housing Survey, new houses and byelaws)	...	...	...	...	...	2039.
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	...	80.
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	121.
Rivers pollution	...	...	...	...	...	6.
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	203.



Sewage disposal plants	...	...	...	...	...	177.
Rats and Mice +infestation	...	...	...	...	...	116.
Infectious Disease (including disinfections)...	...	...	...	...	...	28.
Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	24.
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	4.
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	9.
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	9.
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	53.
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	39.
Refuse Disposal Tips	...	...	...	...	...	77.
Total						2985.

In only 5 cases were formal notices served on owners to carry out work, in all the other cases where action was necessary an informal letter or preliminary notice had the desired effect.

#### 4. Rural Housing Survey

The survey, begun in April 1945, was completed during the year. Members of the Council will recall that the survey originated from the Hobhouse Report on Rural Housing which recommended a national survey of housing conditions in rural districts.

The survey was limited to those houses below a rateable value of £26 and each house, when inspected, was placed into one of four categories, namely :-

- Category 1 - houses fit in all respects.
- Category 2 - houses requiring minor repairs.
- Category 3 - houses requiring structural alteration.
- Category 4 - unfit houses beyond repair at reasonable cost.





Details of inspections carried out during the year are given in the following table :-

Parish.	Housing Survey Jan 1st.1947 - July 19th.1947.					
	1.	2.	3.	4.	R. W. A.	Total.
Dodderhill	152.	73.	51.	32.	(3No.3's)	308.
Martin-Hussingtree	35.	8.	7.	7.	-	57.
Salwarpe	24.	28.	19.	11.	-	82.
Tibberton	23.	21.	33.	6.	(4No.3's)	83.
Hindlip	18.	17.	8.	-.	-	43.
Claines	106.	6.	1.	5.	-	118.
Total	358.	153.	119.	61.	(7)	691.

R. W. A. denotes houses suitable for reconditioning under the former Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

Details of the complete survey in the Droitwich Rural District are set out below :-

Parish.	Category.				R.W.A.	Totals.
	1.	2.	3.	4.		
Upton Warren	35	20	10	7	-	72
Elmbridge	34	36	17	5	-	92
Hampton Lovett	37	8	2	1	-	48
Elmley Lovett	31	18	10	17	-	76
Doverdale	6	3	1	2	-	12
Ombersley	174	142	125	61	17.	502
Hartlebury	235	128	93	66	6.	522
North Claines	377	85	48	30	3.	540
Stock & Bradley	19	29	14	3	2.	65
Crowle	48	32	37	25	4.	142
Oddingley	30	12	10	2	-	54
Huddington	6	3	8	5	-	22
Himbleton	23	35	22	13	-	93
St. Martins Co.	34	10	4	5	-	53
Warndon	5	3	8	6	1.	22
Hadzor	24	7	7	-	-	38
Hanbury	54	62	55	37	2.	208
Tibberton	23	23	33	6	4.	85
Hindlip	18	17	8	-	-	43
Martin Hussingtree	35	9	7	6	-	57
Salwarpe	24	28	19	11	-	82
Dodderhill	152	75	51	32	3.	310
Totals	1424	785	589	340	42.	3138





## 5. Provision of new houses

The most pressing duty of the Council, and indeed of all local authorities in the country in this immediate post-war period, <sup>is</sup> the provision of new housing accommodation and a very large and increasing amount of time of the Department was devoted to this work.

A total of 82 houses were completed in the district, 66 by the Council and 16 by private development under licence. By the end of the year the 20 houses in Station Road, Fernhill Heath, 24 at Ombersley and 6 at Crowle were completed and occupied, while the first 10 houses to be built under the scheme inaugurated by the Ministry of Health Circular 92 were completed at Dilmore Avenue, Fernhill Heath and work had started on a further contract of 10 houses. The building of 6 houses at Hartlebury had also begun. Details of houses under construction on 31st December are as follows :-

Council Houses - Tibberton	2.
Dilmore Avenue, Fernhill Heath	6.
Hartlebury	6.

Private development under licence 6.

Although this record shows considerable improvement over the preceeding year, the demand for new houses remains very great and when this is satisfied a large programme of replacement and re-conditioning of existing houses will be required to bring the housing accommodation of the district to a satisfactory standard.

## 6. Acquisition and Preparation of Sites

The acquisition of sites for housing development by the Council is a complicated procedure involving approval by the Highway and Planning Authority and clearance by the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Town & Country Planning.



During the year the procedure was simplified to some extent by the Ministry of Town & Country Planning acting as a co-ordinating agent on behalf of the interested Government Departments.

After clearance the District Valuer values and negotiates for the purchase of sites.

It will be appreciated that this cumbersome machinery involves a great deal of work in the survey of sites, preparation of plans, and consultations with the various authorities mentioned above.

Site preparation work includes the drawing of layout plans, specifications and bills of quantities for the provision of roads, foul sewers, surface water sewers, sewage disposal works and water supply and obtaining the approval of the Ministry of Health thereto.

A very serious limiting factor in the provision of new houses in the district, and one which added considerably to the cost per house is the absence of water and sewer services.

With the exception of the village of Fernhill Heath, all the sites on the Rural District require either sewage disposal or water services and <sup>in</sup> the majority both have to be provided before building can be undertaken. The high cost of "backland" development off existing roads, although very desirable from a planning point of view also adds appreciably to the cost and therefore to the rent of the new houses.

## 7. Council Houses

had

Prior to the war the Council/built 98 houses, during the war 8 agricultural cottages were built and together with post-war houses the Council owned 172 houses by the end of 1947. It will be appreciated that housing maintenance was difficult during the war years and consequently an accumulation of repairs occurred





It was possible to make some progress, but not all that was desired, in reducing this during the year.

This work of maintenance will inevitably increase as the building programme expands and this subject will call for the consideration of the Council in the near future.

#### 8. Building Licences

During the year a total of 439 licences for civil building were issued, the total value of the work authorised being as follows :-

Housing	£28,966.
Other than Housing	<u>£ 8,084.</u>
Total	<u>£37,050.</u>

This work absorbed an appreciable amount of time in assessing the necessity for the applications, in issuing the licences, making the required returns and keeping of records.

#### 9. Camping Sites & Temporary Dwellings

The licenced camping grounds mainly situated near the River Severn were again fully occupied during the holiday periods and were kept under regular supervision. Minor infringements of the byelaws were remedied by negotiation.

The very assorted and growing collection of temporary dwellings along and near the riverside at Holt Fleet seriously depreciates the amenities of the district and it is hoped that when conditions permit vigorous action will be taken to improve this.

#### 10. Planning and Building Byelaws

During the year 109 inspections and visits were made directly in connection with interim development applications in addition to many consultations with the County Planning Department and attendance at meetings of the Joint Planning Committee.





Every plan to which the Building Byelaws apply (and this means the majority of those deposited) has to be separately examined and in many cases applicants seek advice from the department before making formal submission of their proposals.

90 applications for development have been considered by the Council during the year and were dealt with as indicated below :-

Approved ..	48.
Conditionally approved	36.
Refused	6.
	<hr/>
Total	90.
	<hr/>

One appeal against a decision by the Council was heard by the Minister of Town & Country Planning, that of Mr. A. E. Farley against the refusal to allow a garage and petrol filling station at Bradley Green.

A public enquiry was held at the Red Lion Inn, Bradley Green by an inspector appointed by the Minister. The Council's decision was upheld.

It is interesting to note that the Minister considered this appeal to be of general interest and published the details of the case and his decision in the official list of selected cases.

#### 11. Water Supply

The parish of North Claines and parts of St. Martin County, Warndon and Hindlip are supplied with water purchased from the Council in bulk from the County Borough of Worcester and distributed through the Council's mains which were extended some 320 yards during the year.

The number of properties so served is 503, 22 being added during the period under review.



A booster plant is employed to supply the village of Fernhill Heath and this continued to function efficiently during the year.

The parishes of Dodderhill, Upton Warren and part of the parish of Hadzor are supplied from the mains of the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, as they lie within the limits of the Company's statutory area of supply.

The number of properties so served is 280.

Sixty properties within the parish of Hartlebury are served with piped water from a borehole in private ownership and this supply proved to be satisfactory during the year.

A small number of properties in the Summerfield area of the Hartlebury parish are served from the Kidderminster mains.

Apart from those parishes mentioned above, the remainder of the rural district derives its water supply mainly from shallow wells.

West of the Doverdale fault and in an area amounting to approximately one third of the district these are sunk into the Keuper sandstone and generally the supply there has been adequate.

East of the Doverdale fault the wells are sunk into the overlying marl and at the extreme south east of the district into the lias.

In these areas the supply is capricious both in quality and quantity.

During the summer months one of the longest continuous droughts ever recorded occurred and many places in the country were in difficulties with water supply. In your district water carting was necessary in six parishes namely, Crowle, Himbleton, Hanbury, Stock and Bradley, Dodderhill and Huddington. It was possible, in the early stages, to maintain a service by diverting one of the refuse collection vehicles for the purpose, but as the drought continued and refuse





collection fell into arrear, additional transport had to be engaged. Excluding the cost of the water, which was drawn from the Council's mains, the cost of delivery averaged 7.27 pence per gallon, a very expensive business.

As a contrast the very severe frost in the early part of the year was the cause of many burst pipes and the Department received 78 emergency calls during March alone.

Two boreholes were put down during the year one at Ombersley and one at Hanbury primarily to supply projected new houses. From pumping tests it has been proved that both supplies are considerably in excess of that required for the proposed houses and it is hoped that they may be used to afford a supply to existing houses in the villages.

A list of private supplies sampled during the year is set out below :-

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Address.</u>	<u>Source of Supply.</u>	<u>Result.</u>
20/1/47.	The Lodge, Oakfield, Claines.	Well.	Fit.
20/1/47.	Old House Farm, Crowle.	"	Unfit.
24/3/47.	Chaffeurs Cottage, Wychbold.	"	Unfit.
15/4/47.	Park Cottages, Ombersley.	"	Unfit.
16/4/47.	Himbleton School.	"	Unfit.
25/4/47.	The Parsonage, Warndon.	"	Fit.
13/5/47.	Huddington Court.	"	Unfit.
19/5/47.	1, Fern Villas, Fernhill Heath.	"	Unfit.
25/5/47.	A.T. Gittens, Huddington.	"	Unfit.
30/5/47.	Norchard Cottage, Crossway Green.	"	Unfit.
30/5/47.	Salwarpe Court, nr. Droitwich.	"	Fit.
11/6/47.	Sterling Poultry Farm, Martin Hussingtree.	"	Fit.
30/6/47.	Huddington Court	New Well.	Fit.
14/8/47.	Smith, Lineholt, Ombersley.	Well.	Unfit.
14/8/47.	Hands, Crossway Green.	"	Unfit.





<u>Date.</u>	<u>Address.</u>	<u>Source of Supply.</u>	<u>Result.</u>
5/11/47.	The Nook, Fernhill Heath.	Well.	Unfit.
5/11/47.	Longheadlands, Ombersley.	"	Unfit.
17/11/47.	The Cottage, Hanbury.	"	Unfit.
8/12/47.	Titton; A; Smith, Titton House.	Well after passing through collecting cistern	Fit.
8/12/47.	Titton B; ditto.	Direct from Source.	Fit.
11/12/47.	Jacobs Ladder Lane, Claines.	Well.	Unfit.
22/12/47.	Honeysuckle Villa, Himpleton.	"	Unfit.
23/12/47.	Camp Cottage, Bevere.	"	Fit.

## 12. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

A large amount of time was again given up during the year to sifting information to assist the Council's consulting engineer in preparing detailed schemes for sewerage the village areas of Crowle, Dodderhill, Ombersley and Hartlebury. All these schemes are urgently required; the lack of sewerage is already holding up the building programme in Hartlebury and is likely to do so at Ombersley and Wychbold. At the Fernhill Heath Works the walls of one of the filter beds collapsed. Opportunity was taken to enlarge the diameter of the beds and this was carried out by direct labour. The plant continued to give a satisfactory effluent.

## 13. Rivers Pollution

Collaboration with the County Sanitary Officer resulted in six cases being investigated.

## 14. Food Inspection

The four licenced slaughterhouses in the district were again closed during the year, the meat consumed in the district being drawn from the centralised Ministry of Food



Food Abattoirs at Worcester and Kidderminster.

2 licences to slaughter animals for food were issued.

Periodic inspection of the bakehouses in the district was carried out during the year.

Cafes were inspected and were found to be maintaining a satisfactory standard of cleanliness.

Food condemned during the year comprised :-

		lbs.	ozs.
Chocolate biscuits		3.	
Cream Cracker biscuits		3.	
Hazel Nuts		1,039.	
Baked Beans in Tomato	24 tins	31.	8.
Baked Beans	1 tin		16½.
Carnation Milk	1 tin		14.
Milk	20 tins	17.	8.
Milk	19 tins	1 .	3.
Cooked Meat	1 tin		16½.

#### 15. Ice Cream

One new registration of premises for the sale of ice cream was made during the year. All the registered premises were visited and they were found to be generally satisfactory.

#### 16. Milk Production & Distribution

Registrations required by the Milk and Dairies Regulations were as follows :-

Registered Dairy Farms	...	...	...	166.
" Producers	...	...	...	144.
" Purveyors	...	...	...	71.

The following licences issued by the County Council to producers of designated milk within the rural district were in force at the 31st December 1946.

Accredited Milk	...	...	...	26.
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	14.





The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations by the Council:-

Principal Pasteurisers Licences	...	...	4.
Dealers for Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	3.
Accredited Milk	...	...	Nil.
Supplementary licence to sell Pasteurised Milk...	...	...	2.

The appointed day for transfer of responsibility for milk production from local authorities to the Minister of Agriculture under the terms of the Food & Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944 was again deferred.

The present position regarding responsibility for control of production is an unsatisfactory state of affairs for all concerned.

#### 18. Rodent Control

For the first seven months of the year this section of the department's work was done on a part time basis by one of your Housing Inspectors who had taken a course of training in 1946.

Following the completion of the Housing Survey he was appointed in a full time capacity and was able to make good progress with the Survey which had to be carried out by all authorities at the request of the Ministry of Food. A special note of infested premises was made during the Housing Survey and in addition a total of 102 premises were inspected.

24 poisoning operations were carried out on private properties.

Routine treatment of the Council's refuse tips and sewers was carried out as well as the sewage works and salvage depot at Fernhill Heath.



Operations showed that the Fernhill Heath sewers were free from rat infestation and that the infestation in the Ombersley sewers was negligible.

The 'reservoir' infestation at Battenton tip was kept under control and in this respect the County Agricultural Executive Committee again co-operated with the Council's operator.

19. Refuse collection and disposal

Refuse collection is carried out by the Council in the whole of the area. Collection is made by Council employees using hired vehicles. Every effort was made to improve the service and the target of fortnightly collection in the villages and monthly collection in the outlying areas was reached towards the end of the year.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping with the use of clinker as a covering material.

Details of the cost of refuse collection and disposal during last financial years ending 31st March are given below :-

	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.
Hire of Vehicles	£2301.	£2470.	£2440.	£2591.
Wages	£ 321.	£ 911.	£1096.	£1080.
Totals	£3122.	£3381.	£3536.	£3671.

Salvage is collected in conjunction with refuse collection, the amounts collected are shown in the following table :-







Material.	Weight.			Value		
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper	11.	14.	—.	75.	19.	4.
Bones	—.	—.	—.	—.	—.	—.
Iron	5.	5.	—.	13.	4.	6.
Textiles		8.	—.	10.	6.	3.
Bottles	—.	—.	—.	—.	—.	—.
Totals	17.	7.	—.	98.	10.	1.

20. A total of 39 licences to store petroleum spirit were issued or renewed during the year.

21. I wish to record my appreciation of the support I have received from the Council and the loyalty of the staff. I would also like to express my appreciation of the pleasant co-operation and assistance of the County Sanitary Officer in many matters, but especially in the schemes for extension of sanitary services in the district.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. F. FRY.

Surveyor & Senior Sanitary Inspector.

